

Media Advisory

Unified Command
Buzzard's Bay Oil Spill

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April 30, 2003
Press Release #06-03

Oil spill response update and response timeline

CAPE COD, Mass. – The Coast Guard, in cooperation with Bouchard Transportation and other federal, state and local agencies and contractors will continue cleaning up the Buzzard's Bay oil spill today with additional personnel and equipment arriving on scene.

The lightering, or emptying of the barge's ruptured tank, was completed at 1 a.m. today. Bouchard Transportation began moving the barge to the Esco fuel terminal in Sandwich, Mass., this morning at 7 a.m. with an escort by a 41-foot boat from Coast Guard Station Cape Cod Canal. The barge was safely moored at the terminal at 9:40 a.m.

All reports of areas impacted by the spill continue to be investigated by the Unified Command.

The following areas have been boomed to prevent or contain oil contamination:

- Allen Pond
- Slocum River
- Little River
- Westport Harbor
- West Falmouth Harbor
- Bird Island
- Ram Island
- Great Sippewisset Marsh
- Wild Harbor River
- Hearing River
- Squeteague Harbor
- Quisset Harbor
- Weepecket
- Penikese Island

Unified Command will focus on cleaning up impacted areas including Wild Harbor, Round Hill Point, Mishaum Point, Barney's Joy Point, and Ram Island areas today.

The *Maine Responder*, an oil skimming vessel from Portland, Maine, owned by Marine Spill Response Corporation (MSRC), will continue skimming operations today.

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Buzzards Bay Oil Spill 2-2-2

The Unified Command's objectives for today include:

- Moving the barge to the Esco terminal and beginning the fuel offload
- Conducting a morning overflight to plan cleanup operations
- Maintaining protective booming at 14 sites

- Continuing shoreline cleanup operations at impacted areas
- Continuing Shoreline Cleanup and Assessment Team (SCAT) surveys
- Meeting with local harbormasters and shellfish wardens and fire chiefs from the impacted areas of Bourne, Dartmouth, Fairhaven, Falmouth, Gosnold, Marion, Mattapoisett, New Bedford, Wareham and Westport

Statistics as of 10:00 am April 30, 2003:

- 9 miles of shoreline impacted
- 1,560 gallons of oil collected
- 100 people on SCAT teams
- 160 response personnel cleaning shorelines
- 60 people in the Unified Command Post
- 6500 feet of boom deployed
- Birds
 - o 12 loons being rehabilitated
 - o 4 loons dead
 - o 2 ducks dead
 - o 6 oiled plovers
 - o 2 oiled ducks
 - o 3 oiled loons
 - o 3 oiled gulls

Buzzards Bay Oil Spill 3-3-3

Buzzard's Bay Oil Spill Response Timeline

April 27, 2003

- 5:30 p.m. – Coast Guard Marine Safety Office (MSO) Providence received initial report that a barge was leaking an unknown amount of oil
- 5:30 p.m. – MSO Providence, Clean Harbors and Marine Spill Response Corporation (MSRC) began mobilizing response personnel and equipment
- 6:31 p.m. – Bouchard reports barge conducting internal transfer from #2 starboard cargo tank. Bouchard stages 2,000 feet of shoreline protection boom at Woods Hole.
- 7:12 p.m. – Coast Guard Group Woods Hole 41-foot boat on scene
- 7:20 p.m. – Coast Guard Air Station Cape Cod helicopter on scene
- 8:20 p.m. – MSO Providence on scene
- 9 p.m. – Coast Guard Brief NOAA scientific support coordinator Steve Lehmann
- 10:06 p.m. – Briefed Mass. Dept. of Environmental Protection
- 10:50 p.m. – Divers from Clean Harbors arrive on scene and commence initial hull assessment
- 11:35 p.m. – Tug Jaguar arrives on scene with 1500 feet of 16" boom, begins deploying around the barge

April 28, 2003

- 12:35 a.m. – Divers report 11'-12' longitudinal fracture in hull
- 1:44 a.m. – Bouchard positions 2,000 feet of boom at the Mass. Maritime Academy for shoreline protection
- 2:50 a.m. – Incident Command System implemented
- 7:15 a.m. – Overflight departs from Air Station Cape Cod with Federal On-Scene Commander Captain Mary Landry, NOAA scientific support coordinator and Bob Donovan aboard
- 7:40 a.m. – Maine Responder arrives on scene in Buzzard's Bay
- 9 a.m. – Unified Command Requests Coast Guard Atlantic Strike Team

Bouchard Transportation has established a claims support hotline at (800) 995-4045. Volunteers for shoreline cleanup can call the Coalition for Buzzard's Bay at (508) 999-6363 ext. 207.

Information on impact to fisheries is available from the Mass. Division of Marine Fisheries at (508) 563-1779 ext. 114.

Volunteers interested in assisting with the wild life effort can call (508) 999-6363. Oil sightings on shore can be reported to the National Response Center at (800) 424-8802.